

SPRINGFIELD
URBAN LEAGUE

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October 9, 1998

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

CC DOCKET NO. 98-141

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I am writing on behalf of the Illinois Association of Urban League Executives. I am representing eight Illinois cities to offer our strong support for the proposed Ameritech-SBC Communications merger. It is our understanding that the Federal Communication Commission is considering the merger under case "CC Docket #98-141." I have enclosed an Illinois Urban League Executive roster for your review.

The Illinois Council recently met with the Ameritech Illinois President, Doug Whitley and his staff to discuss the merger. As a result of the meeting I believe the merger will be in the best interest of Ameritech and its customers. With SBC's commitment to sustain a major local presence, the merger will also provide the opportunity to solidify Ameritech's standing as one of Illinois prominent employers, taxpayers and corporate citizens. Ameritech as a corporation and their employees have demonstrated broad-based community support through their corporate contribution and employees involvement. SBC has made a commitment to maintain that tradition.

A strong national and global player like the proposed merger will have the resources and expertise to best ensure that all telephone customers benefit from quality service, reasonable prices and ongoing technological advancements. The State of Illinois will maintain jurisdiction to enforce company commitments and state rules and regulations to deliver quality service at attractive rates to customers.

Your favorable consideration to the proposed merger will be very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Howard R. Veal, Sr.

Howard R. Veal, Sr.
President & CEO

cc: Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Harold Furtchgott-Roth
Commissioner Gloria Tristani
Charles Fisher, Executive Director, Illinois Commerce Commission

SPRINGFIELD URBAN LEAGUE
P. O. BOX 3865 • SPRINGFIELD, IL 62708-3865
217-789-0830 • FAX 217-789-9838

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AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE
& UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL ILLINOIS

ILLINOIS AFFILIATES
OF THE
NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE, INC.

Saundra J. Hudson
President
Madison County Urban League
210 William Street
Alton, Illinois 62002
(618) 463-1906
(618) 463-9021 FAX

Laraine Bryson
President
Tri-County Urban League
317 South MacArthur Highway
Peoria, Illinois 61605
(309) 673-7474
(309) 672-4366 FAX

Theodia Gillespie
President
Quad County Urban League
808 E Galena, Suite B
Aurora, Illinois 60505
(630) 851-2203
(630) 851-2703 FAX

Howard R. Veal, Sr.
President
Springfield Urban League
100 North 11th Street
Springfield, Illinois 62703
(217) 789-0830
(217) 789-9838 FAX

John Tracy Parsons
President
Urban League of Champaign
County
17 Taylor Street
Champaign, Illinois 61820
(217) 356-1364
(217) 356-1310 FAX

Patricia Handy
Interim Administrator
Lake County Urban League
122 Madison Street
Waukegan, Illinois 60085
(847) 249-3770
(847) 249-4894 FAX

James W. Compton
President
Chicago Urban League
4510 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60653
(773) 285-5800
(773) 285-7772 FAX

St. Louis:

James H. Buford
President
Urban League of Metropolitan
St. Louis
3701 Grandel Square
St. Louis, MO 63108
(314) 289-0328
(314) 531-7462 FAX

National Headquarters:

Hugh B. Price
President & CEO
National Urban League
500 East 62nd Street
New York, New York 10021
(212) 558-5300
(212) 593-8250 FAX